

MEMORANDUM

To: Harold Weisberg
From: Gary Schoener
Date: 6/6/69

Subject: Burial of JFK

Informant: Richard Edelman—Cornell student [Note: I first met Rich Edelman when I was an undergrad at Cornell U. He was a right winger and I debated him informally several times and was generally on opposite sides during demonstrations, etc. Now he is apparently a liberal and he explains his change in views as having originated with his discovery of the racism in the Birch Society and their connections with White Citizen's councils. He is quite intelligent and has always had a reputation for honesty.]

Rich spoke with Bob Nickerson about the JFK burial. Bob is the son of the construction manager whose workers dug the grave. "So far as he knows, there was nothing irregular about the work that was done. About the only interesting item is that the original gravesite was intended to be only temporary; some time later, the coffin was moved to its permanent resting place a short distance away. The reason for this has something to do with the fact that the memorials placed around the permanent site were not ready right after JFK's death, and there was no room for them at the original site. This doesn't fully explain why the coffin was moved (That is, why couldn't they have originally put it in its permanent site, despite the unreadiness of the memorials?); however, I'm not so sure that this fact can really be considered an "irregularity" which needs to be explained. Unless one believes the 'vegetable theory,' these facts seem irrelevant. (The 'vegetable theory' adherents claim that JFK finally did die, and was buried when the coffin ostensibly containing his body was transferred—at least, this is what Jerry Davis seems to believe)"

If this is ever used publicly, it would be best to exclude Rich Edelman's name, unless I get his permission to use it. Rich is digging up other things and could become a good informant through some of his contacts.